

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2013

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1002

Introduced by: Representatives Nelson, Bartling, Bolin, Cammack, Campbell, Ecklund, Feickert, Feinstein, Gibson, Greenfield, Haggart (Jenna), Hajek, Hawks, Hawley, Heinemann (Leslie), Hickey, Hoffman, Hunhoff (Bernie), Kaiser, Killer, Kopp, Magstadt, May, Miller, Olson (Betty), Otten (Herman), Qualm, Rasmussen, Ring, Rounds, Russell, Schoenfish, Schrempp, Soli, Stalzer, Steele, Tulson, Tyler, Verchio, and Wick

1 A RESOLUTION, Urging the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to be proactive in
2 facilitating the development of a South Dakota Veterans cemetery in eastern South Dakota
3 and in working with the South Dakota Department of Human Resources to ensure that South
4 Dakota veterans are afforded state employment opportunities.

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota's veterans have risked life and limb, in every clime and place,
6 and have never lost their nerve, in answering the call of duty of our nation and state. South
7 Dakotans gratefully acknowledge our veterans' service, sacrifices, and dedication to We the
8 People of this great state; and

9 WHEREAS, South Dakota legislators acknowledge receipt of repeated requests from
10 members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans,
11 Marine Corps League, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and
12 Fleet Reserve Association, as well as individual South Dakota veterans, to establish a veterans
13 cemetery in eastern South Dakota and for the State of South Dakota to provide accurate official



1 numbers of veterans and disabled veterans employed as state employees; and

2 WHEREAS, the federal government currently collects and publically disseminates accurate
3 official statistical employment information from federal employees regarding veteran/disabled
4 veteran status, with the full support of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The
5 federal government does so to monitor and attempt to ensure that America's veterans are not
6 being discriminated against in federal employment preference; and

7 WHEREAS, South Dakota Codified Law 3-3-1 requires veterans and veterans with service
8 connected disabilities to be given preference in public employment. However, the Department
9 of Human Resources currently does not compile accurate official statistical information from
10 state employees regarding their veteran/disabled veteran status; and

11 WHEREAS, we the duly elected legislators of the people, are committed to ensuring that
12 the will of the people of South Dakota to support our veterans is respected and accomplished;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, in opposing recent failed legislation requiring such measures, Department of
15 Veterans Affairs personnel indicated they would be "proactive" on these issues if left to their
16 own devices:

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
18 Eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the South Dakota House of Representatives
19 expresses its support for establishing a state veterans cemetery in eastern South Dakota and for
20 employment measures to ensure that South Dakota's veterans and disabled veterans are not
21 discriminated against and are provided state employment preference in accordance with the
22 wishes of South Dakota citizens and as required by state law; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and
24 Department of Human Resources are strongly urged to be proactive in addressing these issues.